

***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1       1. [Currently amended] A method for maintaining in a  
2       digital computer system synchronization of ledger accounts  
3       between a back-end procurement system and a front-end  
4       requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality of  
5       customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
6       services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
7       group including a different plurality of said customer  
8       companies, comprising the steps of:

9               associating a plurality of said customer companies  
10          within a company group, said customer companies within  
11          said company group storing in respective storage  
12          devices using a same chart of accounts which varies  
13          with respect to a chart of accounts associated with a  
14          different company group of customer companies of said  
15          enterprise;

16          maintaining a requisition and catalog system in  
17          respective digital computer systems at each said  
18          customer company;

19          maintaining said chart of accounts in a digital storage  
20          device at said back-end procurement system at said  
21          enterprise;

22          periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,  
23          account identification indicia and descriptive  
24          information for a given customer company;

25 communicating said account identification indicia and  
26 descriptive information to said requisition and catalog  
27 system for each said customer company of a given  
28 company group;

29 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said  
30 indicia and information ~~in a data~~ in an electronic data  
31 store of valid general ledger accounts associated with  
32 said company group for said given customer company;

33 associating commodity codes with said account  
34 identification indicia;

35 pushing commodity code/account identification  
36 associations to all other companies in said company  
37 group of said given customer company;

38 responsive to a user request for a requisition of a  
39 commodity, providing to a user interface of a computer  
40 display device a selection list of valid account codes  
41 and descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
42 companies within said company group to facilitate  
43 selection by a user of a correct account code for said  
44 commodity.

2-3. [Canceled]

1 4. [Currently amended] A digital computer system for  
2 operating a procurement accounting system for a plurality of  
3 customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
4 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
5 group including a different plurality of said customer

6 companies, comprising:

7 a first digital computing device for implementing a  
8 back-end procurement system;

9 a second digital computing device for implementing a  
10 front-end requisition and catalog system;

11 a first chart of accounts store maintained in an  
12 electronic storage device at said procurement system;

13 a second chart of accounts maintained in an electronic  
14 storage device at said requisition and catalog system  
15 of a given customer company within a given group of  
16 customer companies which differs from a chart of  
17 accounts for a different group of said customer  
18 companies;

19 an extract utility at said procurement system for  
20 periodically extracting from said first chart of  
21 accounts[,]] digital signals representing account  
22 identification indicia and descriptive information for  
23 a given company;

24 an update utility at said requisition and catalog  
25 system for associating said account identification  
26 indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

27 a data store for storing digital signals representing  
28 said indicia and information;

29 a company group table for storing company identifiers

30           associated with each of a plurality of company group  
31           codes in an electronic storage device;

32           said update utility further for pushing to all  
33           companies within a company group code associations of  
34           commodity codes and account identification indicia  
35           entered for a given company within said company group  
36           codes; and

37           an output device responsive to a user request for a  
38           purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list  
39           of valid account codes and descriptive information for  
40           said company group code.

5-7. [Canceled]

1       8. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2       by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3       executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4       maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a  
5       back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and  
6       catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer  
7       companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to  
8       a plurality of company groups, each said company group  
9       including a different plurality of said customer companies,  
10      said method steps comprising:

11           a computer readable storage medium;

12           first program instructions for associating a plurality  
13           of customer companies within a company group, said  
14           customer companies within said group using a same chart

15       of accounts which differs from a chart of accounts for  
16       a different group of said customer companies;

17       second program instructions for maintaining a chart of  
18       accounts in said procurement system;

19       third program instructions for periodically extracting  
20       from said chart of accounts, account identification  
21       indicia and descriptive information for a given  
22       company;

23       fourth program instructions for communicating said  
24       indicia and information to said requisition and catalog  
25       system of said given company;

26       fifth program instructions at said requisition and  
27       catalog system, for storing said indicia and  
28       information in a data store of valid general ledger  
29       accounts associated with said company group code for  
30       said given customer company;

31       sixth program instructions for associating commodity  
32       codes with said account identification indicia;

33       seventh program instructions for pushing commodity  
34       code/account identification associations to all other  
35       companies in said company group of said given customer  
36       company; [[and]]

37       eighth program instructions responsive to a user  
38       request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing  
39       a selection list of valid account codes and

40 descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
41 companies within said company group; and wherein  
42 said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth,  
43 seventh, and eighth program instructions are recorded  
44 on said computer readable storage medium.

1 9. [Currently amended] A ~~computer program product or~~  
2 computer program storage element for storing as digital  
3 signals program instructions for controlling the operation  
4 of a computer for maintaining synchronization of ledger  
5 accounts between a back-end procurement system and a front-  
6 end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality  
7 of customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
8 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
9 group including a different plurality of said customer  
10 companies, said computer program element according to method  
11 steps comprising:

12 first program instructions for associating a plurality  
13 of companies within a company group, companies within  
14 said group using a same chart of accounts which differs  
15 from a chart of accounts for a different group of said  
16 companies;

17 second program instructions for maintaining a chart of  
18 accounts in said procurement system;

19 third program instructions for periodically extracting  
20 from said chart of accounts, account identification  
21 indicia and descriptive information for a given  
22 customer company;

23        fourth program instructions for communicating said  
24        indicia and information to said requisition and catalog  
25        system;

26        at said requisition and catalog system, fifth program  
27        instructions for storing said indicia and information  
28        in a data store of valid general ledger accounts  
29        associated with said company group code for said given  
30        customer company;

31        sixth program instructions for associating commodity  
32        codes with said account identification indicia;

33        seventh program instructions for pushing commodity  
34        code/account identification associations to all other  
35        companies in said company group of said given customer  
36        company; and

37        eighth program instructions responsive to a user  
38        request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing  
39        a selection list of valid account codes and  
40        descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
41        companies within said company group; and wherein said  
42        first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh,  
43        and eighth program instructions are recorded on said  
44        computer program storage element.

10-11. [Canceled]